

FAIRBANKS

VERNON L. NASH

ALASKA



Antique Automobile Club of America

## Hello Car Club Members!

Your newsletter may look a little bit different this month because I am filling in for Ron Allen while he is out of town. I hope it's not too different and rest assured that Ron will be back at the job next month. I'm also filling in for Marion and mailing out the newsletters that go in the regular mail AND I've already filled in for Ray twice at running the club meetings in February and March. I'm happy to fill in for everyone and glad I can do it. We'll all be glad when everyone is back at their job soon though!

## Dinner Meeting in April

April's dinner meeting will be at 6:00 PM at Soapy Smiths on 2nd Ave. April 12th. Club meeting usually starts at 7PM if you don't want to join us for dinner. There will be a choice of Burgers, Jumbo Fried Shrimp, 3 Piece Cod, Chicken Tenders, Chef Salad, or Tuna Salad for \$9.50. Or you may choose Soapy's Famous Gold Rush Chicken Dinner or Sarges Famous Pork Rib Dinner including a salad, rice or fries, and drink for \$16.95. All meals include a bottomless drink. Gratuity is not included in the above prices.

If you want to order the Chicken or Rib dinner, please call the Chaces at 488-3805 / 322-0512 or email to [chace@acsalaska.net](mailto:chace@acsalaska.net) by April 9th so Soapy's Gang can snag enough grub to have ready for the dinners.

Contrary to some beliefs there is plenty of parking on the East side of the COOP building between Big Ray's and Two Street Station or better yet try parking behind the Key Bank or the Courthouse Square buildings, to the West of Soapy's. This is only a very short half block to a block walk. No need to be escorted. Call Bill and Joyce if you have any questions.

## Spotlight on Richard Gresham

Richard Gresham grew up in Kentucky and learned to maneuver things with wheels at a very young age. He really got into cars though, at about 13 as Richard began to follow his brother around who was into drag car racing. They would fix

this and modify that and rebuild the other and Richard would watch and learn. His brother was rather quiet though and about the only thing Richard remembers that he still benefits from today, when working on his own cars, is one of his brother's favorite phrases,



“FIT, damn-it -- damn-it, FIT!”

After Richard had settled in Alaska and been here a few years, teaching school and doing construction work in the summer he decided he didn't want to work in construction anymore but did want something to keep him busy that he could do even in the winter. He purchased a FORD truck from his brother and it was a great deal but it had an obvious oil leak. He talked to his neighbors, the Father and Son team, Paul and Lee Camarata and they said “no problem to fix that, we'll help you!” Well it wasn't long before Richard found out that the Camarata's were merely shade tree mechanics and that Lee was too busy with his construction business to be of too much help. However, Richard developed a lasting friendship with Paul and together they used the shop manual Richard bought and rebuilt the engine that summer.

Paul took Richard at his word to find something other than construction work to keep him busy and asked which “Ford” Richard would like to work on. However, Richard began restoring the car that he had a particular interest in, mostly to get his brother's goat, as that was the car his bro used to race and doesn't have time for it any more – the Camaro. His brother teasingly or seriously asked Richard if he had a will and was hoping he'd be named as the one to get the Camaro's. Richard has since wound up with a few other “different” projects in his fleet of restored vehicles.



Richard's first "project" was a 1967 Camaro. True to his word, Paul called Richard to tell him to quick call this number that was on tradio, so Richard did, and since he and Paul were the first ones there to look at the car, Richard bought it! On another occasion after looking through Old Cars Weekly, Paul found two Camaro ragtop's in Kansas City. Richard called with Paul helping him to make the "deal". Richard had them brought up on a trailer by a former teacher and friend that came up to Alaska each year. The friend was used to hauling Cadillac's up and swore if one of the Camaro's fell off the trailer he wouldn't have gone back for it. But at every stop he made along the way, whether it was a gas station or to get something to eat, people were asking to buy the vehicles right off the trailer and just as they were. Richard's friend said he couldn't understand why. When the car was finished Richard took his friend and wife for a drive in it to the Turtle Club for dinner and his friend finally saw the beauty and value of the convertible Camaro that Richard so skillfully restored to prime condition.

Frustration and annoyance would set in many times when it came to painting a car. Richard would buy the newest paint gun out there that was going to do this great job (you know truth in advertising) and just as he'd get to a critical point on the job it would jam. Paul would pull out his 50 year old paint gun that he painted many things with including his house and Quonset hut and offer it to finish the job. Of course it would work like a dream and they'd finish the paint job on the car just fine, with it looking great but leaving Richard still annoyed! Together Richard and Paul painted about 9 cars usually ending up with Paul's old paint gun.

Richard has a lot of great stories about his cars as each is unique and special to him and he has loved working on them. He has especially enjoyed working with Paul and Lee and being in the car club enjoying the back and forth banter between Chevy's and Ford's and all he has learned from everyone in the club. .

### Raffle Car 1952 Chevrolet Woody Wagon Ready to Drive!



It is a 1952 Chevrolet Styleline Deluxe Station Wagon. Willy has a few things he'd like to see done to the car and is planning a couple of work parties with the first one scheduled for this Saturday March 30th. If you are interested in helping with this project give Willy a call at 456-2261 to set up a time to get together and work out

some “minor” details. Willy had to spend the day getting the tree sap scrubbed off of it before he took the pictures so the real hard work is finished.

There will be more pictures at the April dinner meeting and Willy is designing a brochure (Wilma gave him a crash computer course in designing posters before she left for her class). Raffle tickets are available from Willy 456-2261 or Ron Allen 488-3965 and at our monthly dinner meeting. They are selling for \$5 per ticket or a book of 5 for \$20. The raffle committee will also be setting up some “sales” time at various public places and if you can give a few hours of your time that will be greatly appreciated. The car will be raffled off on Sunday at the car show the weekend of June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Carlson Center. Don’t miss it!

### Sunshine (makes us all feel better)

Laurel McLaughlin called to say that Merle Page had quadruple by-pass surgery in Anchorage recently. Merle dropped her daughter-in-law, Tracy, off at the Tanana Valley Clinic and had planned on running some errands before she had to pick her up again, y’know like going to the post office and the store for a few things. But Merle was not feeling well and thought since she was right there she’d go into TVC’s First Care. The next thing Merle knew was that she was being rushed to the hospital by ambulance and then medi-vacced to Providence hospital and into surgery after having some more testing done there! Laurel is sending a card from the club and wants everyone to know that Merle is out of the hospital and would like to hear from us.

You can send a card to: Merle Page, C/O Marian Livingston, 11925 Wilderness Dr., Anchorage, AK 99518 and Marion’s phone # is 907-345-3196. Also Merle’s son Rob and wife Tracy are here in town at 457-1233. Rob said Merle’s first words after surgery were “How are my dogs.” Merle is planning on showing her pit-bulls and has a couple of pups!

Also Bill Chace is home after fusion surgery on his left hand, thumb area, and is doing just fine. It’ll be awhile before he is turning wrenches with his left hand again but he’ll be up to it by Spring I’m sure.

If you know of a club member that would like some cheering up, let Laurel McLaughlin, Ruth Ann Domke, or Marion Benham know and we’ll let everyone know to spread the well wishes.

### Events: the fun begins

We’re working on several of them coming up in just a short couple of months now. June will be here before we know it. There will even be a few meanderings before June I’m sure. There’s something for everyone and we need to work together on what we like to do with the club and lend a hand where we can. June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the Car Show and Willy and committee have things well in hand for the raffle car and car show. While Willy is out of town Ron Allen, 488-3965, and the rest of the committee will make sure that everything gets done and all will be ready when Willy gets back up here for the car show. A procedure manual is being written to help with the planning and staging of this event too. Contact Willy or Ron Allen if you have any ideas or can help, it would be appreciated.

Then there’s the Wednesday night run around’s beginning June 6th. I thank the Wilbur’s for stepping up to the plate to say they’d help run this event. I got a little

panicked and maybe a little too stressed at the meeting in March. All the events that we do always work out and somebody always comes forward to lead the events that we always participate in. It is just the way the club works. Thank you all, each and every one for helping out and it'll all work out the way it should this year too. Let's just go and have fun and enjoy our vehicles and friendships because we all like what we do and we're fulfilling our club mission to promote and further the interest in old cars.

Next will be the Summer Solstice, can you believe that. I know I'll have plenty of help and if you can plan now to have Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup> off to lend a hand. We've talked about whether to have the root beer stand or not and will need to make a decision soon so we can make sure we have electric and everything set in place. I also have the set up design and instructions of what has been done in the last couple of years but really need someone to handle that part of the event. Let me know if you'd like to dish up that part of the Solstice celebration.

Bill Chace has been in touch and is the contact person for the Model A club that will be coming up the week-end of June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. They want to plan to do something with us on the 24<sup>th</sup> and it looks like quite a schedule they are undertaking. As it gets closer Bill will have more news for us. If you want to know Bill will give us an update at the next couple of meetings or give him a call. Next I have the North Pole Fourth of July Parade application and will get the \$10 registration fee from Don Oines at the next meeting. We'll line up as we always do and take part in the Mayor's picnic although they have a new mayor now – wonder if he'll be as generous!? It's a lot of fun anyway. I believe last year we were asked to do a show-n-shine at the Pioneer Park 4<sup>th</sup> of July too. There are plenty of cars so we can participate in both! Other events will be announced as they come up and again I appreciate all the help.

### April Birthdays!

01 Joni Ellsworth	14 Ron Frey
02 Roy Wilber	14 Nancy Peterson
04 Larry Bennett	15 Wilma Vinton
07 Rudy Domke	20 Ken Uzzell
07 Mel Brabham	24 Don Oines
10 Mark Cosson	26 Betty Borg
13 Greg Shoemaker	26 Doris Casey
13 Bryana Angulo	26 Loren "Bud" Rotroff
	27 Marion Benham

### April Anniversaries!

11 Herman & Penny Hauck	28 David & Celeste Reid
-------------------------	-------------------------

**OFFICERS:**

President	Ray McLeod	rmcleod@alaska.net	907-456-7877
Vice President	Sherry Camarata	<a href="mailto:pscamarata@gci.net">pscamarata@gci.net</a>	907-488-4293
Secretary	Marion Benham	Mvbenham1@yahoo.com	907-474-4966
Treasurer	Don Oines	doines1@gci.net	907-452-4510
Director	Gary Nash		907-456-2103
Director	Willy Vinton	wvinton@acsalaska.net	907-456-2261
Director	Bill Wright	tong@mosquitonet.com	907-479-8505
Newsletter	Ron Allen	ronandnancy@gci.net	907-488-3965
Webmaster	Wilma Vinton	wvinton@acsalaska.net	907-456-2261
Events Coordinator	Sherry Camarata	<a href="mailto:pscamarata@gci.net">pscamarata@gci.net</a>	907-488-4293

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The April Board meeting will be held at the Felix Cookhouse Restaurant in the Best Western Hotel Tuesday evening at 7 pm April 10.

The April Dinner Meeting will be Thursday evening April 12<sup>th</sup> at Soapy's Smith's on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street beginning at 6 PM with the club meeting at 7 PM. See article in Newsletter for menu and parking options.

**Newsletter Deadline**

All materials for the newsletter should be in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to be considered for the next newsletter. Email [ronandnancy@gci.net](mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net) or call 907-488-3965. Items can be mailed to Ron at his home address; 1288 Rangeview Dr, North Pole, AK 99705.

*Have a story about how you got your car? A favorite trip? A real repair hassle? Send it in!*

**Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club**

P.O. Box 71253  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

